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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/910,936

07/24/2001

Amit S. Phadnis

CSCO-006/2879

3554

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06/14/2005

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, BRIAN D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2661

DATE MAILED: 06/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/910,936

Applicant(s)

PHADNIS ET AL.

Examiner

Brian D. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 July 2001.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 July 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/24/01.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The applicant is requested to provide Serial Number and Filing Date for related application mentioned in page 2 of the specification.
2. The disclosure is objected to because it contains an embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code. Applicant is required to delete the embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code. See MPEP § 608.01.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: “380” in line 13 of page 10. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

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The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "said forwarding information" in line 10. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. "Forwarding" information seems to mean "routing" information. If this is true, it is suggested to change "forwarding" in claims 5-7 to "routing" or change "routing" in all the claims to "forwarding".

Claim 5, line 5, "said maintaining" lacks antecedent basis and seems to refer back to "maintaining" step of claim 2. If this is true, it is suggested to change the dependency of claim 5 from being dependent on claim 1 to dependent on claim 4.

Claim 6 recites the limitation "the address spaces" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 8 recites the limitation "said forwarding information" in line 10. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. "Forwarding" information seems to mean "routing" information. If this is true, it is suggested to change "forwarding" in claims 11-13 to "routing" or change "routing" in all the claims to "forwarding".

Claim 10 recites the limitation "said memory means" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. In, line 1, "said single table" lacks antecedent basis and seems to refer back to "a single table" in claim 9, line 1. If this is true, it is suggested to change the dependency of claim 10 from being dependent on claim 8 to dependent on claim 9.

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Claim 12 recites the limitation "said memory means" in line 5. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 13 recites the limitation "the address spaces" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 14 recites the limitation "said forwarding information" in line 13. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. "Forwarding" information seems to mean "routing" information. If this is true, it is suggested to change "forwarding" in claims 18-19 to "routing" or change "routing" in all the claims to "forwarding".

Claim 18, line 5, "said maintaining" lacks antecedent basis and seems to refer back to "maintaining" step of claim 15. If this is true, it is suggested to change the dependency of claim 5 from being dependent on claim 14 to dependent on claim 17.

Claim 19 recites the limitation "the address spaces" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 20 recites the limitation "said forwarding information" in line 10. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. "Forwarding" information seems to mean "routing" information. If this is true, it is suggested to change "forwarding" in claims 22, 24, and 25 to "routing" or change "routing" in all the claims to "forwarding".

Claim 25 recites the limitation "the address spaces" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 27 recites the limitation "said memory units" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 1-2, 8-9, 14-15, and 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by March et al (2003/0007486).

Regarding claim 1, 8, and 14, March discloses a gateway device (media portal 44 in figures 1 & 2) and a method for processing a packet, the gateway device comprising: means for searching enabling the retrieval of both a routing information (port) and a network address translation (NAT) information necessary for processing the packet in a single search operation (see NAPT table 130), wherein the NAT information specifies a new address for an original address in the packet; means for receiving the packet containing the original address; means for determining the routing information and the NAT information for the packet by using the single search; means for substituting the new address for the original address in the packet; and means for forwarding the packet with the new address according to the forwarding information (see paragraphs 006, 007 & 0085).

Regarding claims 2, 9, and 15, March discloses a single table for both the routing and the NAT information (see network address and port translation (NAPT) table 130).

Regarding claims 20-21, March discloses a gateway device (media portal 44) for processing a packet, the gateway device comprising: a memory unit (storage module) storing a routing information and a network address translation (NAT) information necessary for processing the packet (NAPT table 130), wherein the NAT information specifies a new address for an original address in the packet; an inbound interface receiving the packet containing the original address; a forwarding and NAT block determining the routing information and the NAT information for the packet using a single search, the forwarding and NAT block substituting the new address for the original address in the packet; and an outbound interface forwarding the packet with the new address according to the forwarding information, wherein the memory unit stores the routing information and the NAT information in a single table (see figures 1 & 2 and paragraphs 006, 007, & 0085).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 3-4, 7, 10-11, 16-17, and 22-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over March in view of McClure (6,496,439) and Michels et al (6,678,269).

Regarding claims 3-4, 7, 10-11, 16-17, and 22-23, March discloses all the claimed subject matter as described in previous paragraph except for the table uses a content addressable memory

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(CAM) and the search key includes network addresses. However, these features are well known in the art. McClure discloses the use of CAM to store translation tables (see col. 1, lines 40-41) and Michels discloses the search key includes network addresses and (see col. 4, lines 17-20 and col. 6, lines 1-4). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the CAM as taught by McClure and the search key include the addresses as taught by Michels to meet the design criteria of a particular implementation.

10. Claims 5-6, 12-13, 18-19, 24-25, and 26-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over March in view of Michels et al (6,678,269).

Regarding claims 5, 12, 18, and 24, March does not specifically disclose the gateway device comprises a service selection gateway connecting to a plurality of service domains and storing NAT information and forwarding information in a plurality of tables portioned according to service domains such that forwarding information and Nat information related to the same service domain is stored in the same one of the plurality of tables. However, these features are well known in the art. Michels discloses a switching device (gateway) connecting to a plurality of service domains (12, 14, 16 of figure 1A), each service domain includes a table (42, 44, 46 of figure 2) for storing the information relating to that service domain. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use different table for different service domain as taught by Michels in the system of March in order to reduce the size of the table and the search time.

Regarding claims 6, 13, 19, and 25, March does not specifically disclose at least one table can store the information related to at least two of the service domain, wherein the address

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spaces accessible in the at least two of the service domains do not overlap. However, Michels discloses one table can be used to store at least two service domain wherein the address spaces accessible in the at least two of the service domains do not overlap (see table 90 in figure 5 where domains 0-3 stored the information). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a single table to store at least two service domains as taught by Michels in the system of March in order to effectively use of memory to store table entries for all the service domains.

Regarding claim 26, Michels discloses a service selection block (packet analysis 34) determining a specific service to which the packet relates to and causes the packet to be processed according to a corresponding one of the plurality of tables (42, 44, 46 of figure 2). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the service selection block as taught by Michels in the system of March in order to provide the specific service to the packet.

Regarding claim 27, Michels discloses a plurality of forwarding and NAT blocks (36, 38, 40) wherein each of the plurality of forwarding and NAT blocks is coupled to a corresponding one of the memory units, wherein each memory unit stores one of the plurality of tables (42, 44, 46). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use separate blocks/memories for each service as taught by Michels in the system of March so that different searching can be performed simultaneously on different memories.

Conclusion

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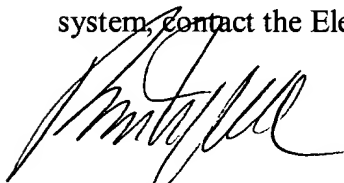
11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Brown (6,775,281), Iyer et al (2002/0116502), Bezek (5,390,260), Liu et al (2002/0141384), and Kao et al (2003/0018814).

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian D. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-3084. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-6:00 Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chau Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-3126. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



6/10/05

**BRIAN NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**